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J. W. Henderson to Sarah A. M. Henderson (7 June 1863)

John Watson Henderson

Sarah Anne Means Henderson

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Dear, I don't want you to think from anything I said in my
letter that I blamed you for getting up that fine
column you & old foot. I didn't intend to convey
any such meaning. I am satisfied that you never
would have refused him if he had let you alone.
I admire your spirit & wish that you had been a man only
long enough to give me a good thrashing.

I am not at all anxious to get into a fight, but I would
rather go back down there than stay here for there is a much
better chance to get something good to eat there than here.
This country is all foraged out here about Shelbyville.
Dear, I am very much obliged to you for your kind invitation
to go down & eat picassée with you - but alas! alas! in such
good times for poor me, I have tasted chicken only once
since I left home & that was an old rooster one of the mess
got when out foraging - we stewed him & put in some dumplings
& had as much as we & could eat, but dear, I would
rather be there now to eat Irish potatoes than anything else.
I do wish I could get another furlough to go home this
summer & be there in fruit & watermelon time. I was there
to enjoy the hog-killing time & if I could just be there after
awhile to eat fruit, watermelons & vegetables, I think I
could afford to stay away awhile again but I have no
idea when I will enjoy such a treat as that would be if
I keep my health, perhaps not till the war ends.
My diarrhea has been rather better for the last week or
two than usual, I have been troubled very much for the
last few days with that old choking when I go to
eat. I can't understand what causes it. I don't think
my stomach has ever got entirely right since I was at home.
My mouth & tongue are sore nearly all the time and pretty bad now.

Dear, with love & affection to your lovely Mother
The late, we are well & expect with good prospects
& the dinner has been again, I must go on with the
have preaching today - had our sermon before dinner
at 11 o'clock, & know the one you brought, Dear, we
who last one to the 4th I have read from you since
I think, if we get back to Lewisburg I will try to get see
your friends about Cornersville, I heard something of them
from a citizen when we were there before. Mr. John Cox is
dead - has been dead about two years - his widow lives at the
same place - Calvin Ceburn is captain of a company in
some Tenn. regt., now at Vicksburg - Dear, I do hope the
news we get from Vicksburg is true, we had it read out to
us the other evening that old Grant was retreating & that
Gen. Johnston was about to cut him off - that the Grant
loss in the late battles there was 40,000 & ours only 5,000.
I do hope our troops will entirely annihilate old Grant
& all his army before they stop - then perhaps we may expect
peace soon, but if they do get Vicksburg it looks to me
like we are nearly gone up some enough, Dear, I wrote you
sister, Jane & Amanda a letter this day a week & gave it
to Mr. Brown a member of our company who came
up here & thought he could stand the service but began
to go down with the diarrhea ~~with~~ in a day or two
after he got here - he has now gone to Chattanooga to
the hospital to get his discharge signed which the Dr.
gave him here & perhaps will get home soon.
He first thought he would get on his horse & go back
without any discharge but our officers wouldn't let him

Dear, I don't know hardly what to say, on that Baltimore
question. it is the first time I ever heard of such a thing.
I don't think it is used here, if so, I am not aware of it.
& as for having so much "gack" in us, I think we are
a step or two above that, at least. The ladies visited us
nearly every day at our last camps & I am sure I never
dressed nor did I hear any of the other boys at it,
if he could buy a horse at St. Gallanega when he got his discharge
he would come back this way & take our money & anything
we wanted to send home. I wish he would for I have got
2 more rings ready & will be 20 another in a day or two, so if
he come I can send you money & you. Laurie & Elsie rings
there will be two large for them but their aunts Annie
Maggie can wear them awhile if they will not break
having them made pretty small. Dear, I sold the drawers
you sent by juv. Co. for \$1.50 & my other brown shirt
for 5 dollars. I didn't think I could carry them all.
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